

I am writing this letter because I support Proposed Bill #140 about providing Open Caption in movie theaters. It is called: An Act Expanding Access by Hearing Impaired Persons to Movie Theaters. This bill is incredibly important because people who are deaf and hard of hearing should be able to enjoy movies with friends who are hearing.

With closed captioning the person watching the movie must keep looking back at the promoter and they miss parts of the movie and it also blocks part of the movie. They also have glasses which are expensive and uncomfortable for the individual who is wearing them. I called numerous different movie theaters around the state and only the Middletown movie theater offered open captioning, but it needed to be called ahead about a day or so. Bow Tie in Hartford and Buckland Hill offered closed captioning that a person would attach to the cup holder. Milford has closed caption eye ware and earpieces, which are of no help if the person is deaf. AMC in Plainville has headphones, again, not helpful for those who are fully deaf, and provide closed caption devices.

Having open captioning for movies calls for no additional cost to movie companies since films come equipped with this technology and it is much easier for the Deaf or hard of hearing individual. It also does not bring so much attention to the person, and they can simply relax and enjoy the movie. I did not think much of this until I started researching what it was like to be deaf or hard of hearing. Watching a movie in the theater is something that everyone should have the pleasure of enjoying with the most comfort that can be provided.

Approving this bill would make movies a much more enjoyable experience for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, at minimal obstruction to others.

Thank you.

Kelly Richards